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THE WASHINGTONIAN HOME.

THIS Institution has nearly completed the second year of its existence. Commenced with many misgivings, on the part of even its most zealous projectors, it has fully vindicated the truth of the principles on which it was founded, and met with a success far exceeding the hopes of its warmest friends.

The objects of the organization, as set forth in its Charter, are the provision "of a Retreat for Inebriates, and the means of reforming them." In seeking to effect this latter object, its efforts are mainly based on the conviction that intemperance should be regarded as a disease, to be counteracted by medico-moral appliances, rather than as a crime, controllable by coercive measures and penal enactments.

The nucleus of the present Society was formed in 1857, under the name of the "Home for the Fallen," by a few gentlemen who were willing to put to the test, what they considered the true principles of reform. A small handful, only, rallied round the enterprise at the outset, and many of the old and tried friends of the Temperance cause looked askance at the movement, as utopian in its character, and destined to a speedy failure. Many obstacles conspired to discourage the friends who had charge of the work, but the labor of their hands was blessed of the Lord, good results began to show themselves, their own hearts were strengthened, and many, hitherto faithless, raised their hands to speed the cause.

The accommodations at first secured for the Home, soon proved too strait; it was removed to Franklin Street, and subsequently to its present location, at 36 Charles Street. Since that time the work has gone steadily forward, sustained by the generous contributions of its friends, and daily gaining in the confidence of the community. As a proof of the latter assertion it may be stated, that at the recent session of the Legislature, an Act of Incorporation was granted to the Institution, under the name of the "WASHINGTONIAN HOME," together with a small amount of pecuniary aid in furtherance of its objects.

The unlooked-for success which attended the efforts at the Home, in behalf of its inmates, soon began to attract attention abroad. Letters of inquiry and applications for admission flowed in; persons from other cities and distant states came to share its advantages; and for many months the number of applicants has far exceeded the capacity of the Institution; and were its present dimensions doubled, it would soon be filled to repletion.

Up to the present time, about five hundred persons have

been received into the Home, and for periods varying from a week to several months in duration. Of this number have been men of all ages, from the stripling of seventeen, to the gray-haired man of seventy. All of the professions, and most of the other callings of life, have more than once been represented on the list. Of the whole number who have been inmates of the Home, it may be said with confidence, that four-fifths are standing, to-day, reformed and temperate men. A large proportion have resumed their occupations, laid aside, in some instances for years, on account of intemperate habits, and are now filling their positions in society as husbands, fathers, sons and brothers, respected and beloved. Many have become religious men, subdued by the power of the gospel, and are now adorning their profession as earnest, working Christians. Some are laboring in the cause of Temperance, and amply qualified as they are, by talents and previous education, are atoning for the errors of former years by their efforts in behalf of their fellow-men.

If it be asked how these results have been accomplished, and by what peculiar treatment the change is brought about, we reply, by sympathy and kindness. The poor, degraded outcast, is taken by the hand; the fallen brother is kindly made to feel that, fallen though he be, he is not beyond the reach of hope, that others are interested in his welfare, and that friendly hands are outstretched to save him from the drunkard's doom. He is stripped of his soiled and draggled clothing; and a cleansed person, decent garments, wholesome food, a comfortable couch, lend their aid to restore the physical system, and recuperate its palsied energies, preparatory to the attempt to rouse the mental and moral forces, and bring into play the nobler feelings of the man. His brain, perhaps for weeks or months continuously frenzied by alcohol, becomes gradually cleared, reason resumes her throne, and the poor victim at length is able to think—to reflect—a thing he has long most sedulously avoided.

Now the words of earnest counsel are poured into his humbled, sobered mind; he finds himself surrounded by others who, like him, have trod the painful path of the inebriate, and, like him, have turned their steps, and are striving to regain their former manhood. Home-like influences, family devotions, morning and evening, meetings for prayer, social temperance meetings, and the encouraging words of those from whom the demon of intemperance has been cast out, soon produce their legitimate effect, and the confidence manifested by others awakens hope and begets a self-respect, which is essential to successful reformation. He is *trusted*, and he soon begins to regard that trust, and fears to violate it. The Home is in no sense a prison, or a place of involuntary restraint; it has neither bolts nor bars; and as the presence of no one is wished who

has not a sincere desire to reform, no one is compelled to remain who is unwilling to do so. So far from securing abstinence from intoxicating liquors by compulsory means, the inmates are allowed to walk abroad daily into the city, upon their simple verbal pledge, and are often furnished with money, when destitute, to ensure the fact that their abstinence shall be voluntary. Although this is constantly done, we have scarcely a single instance on record in which the parole of honor has been violated. Such is the course pursued--such have been the results attained. Much has been accomplished--alas, how much remains to be done.

The Institution has thus far pursued its modest way, comparatively but little known. The means for its support have been chiefly furnished by a few persons who, we believe, will yet receive a rich reward in heaven. But this little number cannot alone sustain the heavy burthen, from year to year; moreover, increasing applications demand an enlarged sphere of operations. So far as practicable, it is designed to make the Home a self-sustaining institution; but it is obvious that, without permanent funds, or a building it can call its own, with constant calls upon its gratuitous charities, the time has not yet arrived when it can dispense with the efficient aid of the benevolent public. While in the exercise of the most rigid economy, the government has been sorely crippled in their operations by the want of adequate funds. But in addition to the means of meeting its daily expenses, it is sought to establish, as early as possible, the nucleus at least of a building fund, which shall eventually afford to the Home a permanent shelter. Until this is done, the labors of its officers must be divided between the legitimate work of the Institution in reforming men, and the anxious toil of soliciting means to carry on its operations. Once placed upon a permanent foundation, the Home can hardly fail to repay a thousand fold, to the cause of humanity, the aid extended in its hour of need.

To the friends of humanity it makes its appeal.

A D M I S S I O N .

All applications for admission should be made to the Superintendent, ALBERT DAY, Esq., at the Home, No. 36 Charles Street, Boston. If the application be made by letter, a full statement should be given of the case, its duration, whether periodical or otherwise, the general health, &c., &c.

The Home is designed for the treatment of males only. Females cannot be received.

Those only can be admitted as inmates, who have a sincere desire to reform, and are willing to comply with the rules of the Home, which are such as are essential to every well-regulated family.

As the Home is without permanent sources of income, and the voluntary contributions are insufficient to meet its expenses, the inmates will be charged a reasonable price for board, and such other necessary expenses as may be incurred. A limited number of free beds will be retained, for such suitable applicants as are unable to meet their expenses.

The inmates cannot be attended by their friends while at the Home; and as the room in the building is very contracted, no accommodations can be provided for them even for a temporary stay.

ORGANIZATION, 1859—60.

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